

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 151 883
A2

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

) Application number: 84308968.1

) Date of filing: 20.12.84

(51) Int. Cl.⁴: **C 08 L 23/12**
C 08 L 23/20, C 08 L 23/24
C 08 L 53/00
/(C08L23/12, 23:20),
(C08L23/12, 23:24), (C08L23/12,
53:00)

) Priority: 27.12.83 JP 248520/83

) Date of publication of application:
21.08.85 Bulletin 85/34

) Designated Contracting States:
BE DE FR GB IT NL

) Applicant: **SUMITOMO CHEMICAL COMPANY, LIMITED**
15 Kitahama 5-chome Higashi-ku
Osaka-shi Osaka 541(JP)

(72) Inventor: Shiga, Akinobu
2-17-6, Honcho
Koganei-shi Tokyo(JP)

(72) Inventor: Kakugo, Masahiro
1353-4-122, Shiizu
Ichihara-shi Chiba(JP)

(72) Inventor: Kojima, Junpei
1-9-433, Yushudainishi
Ichihara-shi Chiba(JP)

(72) Inventor: Wakatsuki, Kizuku
1-8-60, Aobadai
Ichihara-shi Chiba(JP)

(74) Representative: Diamond, Bryan Clive et al,
Gee & Co. Chancery House Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1QU(GB)

4) Crystalline propylene polymer composition.

7) A crystalline polypylene composition comprises a blend of (a) crystalline polypropylene homo- or random or block copolymer of propylene and (b) 0.005 to 10,000 ppm by wt. of a polymer of a vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 C atoms, e.g. vinyl cyclopentane or cyclohexane.

The propylene may be copolymerized with up to 50 mol% of another C₂-18 α -olefin. The cycloalkane may be copolymerized with up to 20 mol% of another vinyl cycloalkane or an α -olefin. Both polymers may be produced using a π compound and organoaluminium compound as catalyst system.

Additives can be present; the composition can be molded, e.g. to form a sheet.

The composition has good optical transparency and rigidity.

CRYSTALLINE PROPYLENE POLYMER COMPOSITION

This invention relates to a propylene polymer composition having excellent crystallinity.

A polypropylene is a synthetic resin which has high rigidity and mechanical strength but of which rate of crystallization is relatively slow. In some applications, therefore, its crystallinity after molding is low and its rigidity is reduced accordingly. Or because of the formation of relatively large spherulites, molded articles of the polymer have inferior transparency and may have a debased commercial value.

Some attempts have been made heretofore to improve the crystallinity and transparency of polypropylene. For example, it is known that when an aluminum or sodium salt of an aromatic carboxylic acid (Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 80329/1983) or an aromatic carboxylic acid, an aromatic metal phosphate or a sorbitol derivative (Japanese Patent Publication No. 12460/1980 and Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 129036/1983) is added, it becomes an agent for forming a crystal nucleus (to be referred to as a nucleating agent), and reduces the aforesaid problem.

Among these nucleating agents, the sorbitol derivative exhibits a particularly good nucleating effect, but is limited in its use because it bleeds out from the resin to contaminate rolls during film formation and give an offensive odor during processing. The aluminum salt of an aromatic carboxylic acid which is frequently used in general acts as a nucleating agent, but has a very small effect of improving the transparency of the polypropylene. Furthermore, a film formed from a polypropylene containing this aluminum salt develops numerous voids.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 32430/1970 describes that to improve the transparency of polypropylene, a three-component copolymer is prepared by copolymerizing propylene, an α -olefin having 4 to 18 carbon atoms and 3-methylbutene-1. The transparency of this copolymer is still unsatisfactory. Even when such a 3-methylbutene-1 copolymer is blended with a polypropylene, the effect of improving the transparency of the polypropylene is unsatisfactory.

In view of these defects, the present inventors have made extensive investigations, and have found that the crystallinity and transparency of a polypropylene can be improved by blending a crystalline polypropylene

with a vinyl cycloalkane polymer. This discovery has led to the present invention.

According to this invention, there is provided a crystalline polypropylene composition comprising a blend of a crystalline propylene polymer with a polymer of a vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 carbon atoms, said composition containing 0.05 weight ppm to 10,000 weight ppm of the vinyl cycloalkane unit.

The drawing shows a schematic vertical section of a pressing device to mold sample sheets for the measurement of optical properties.

The term crystalline polypropylene, as used in this invention, denotes a homopolymer of propylene or a random or block copolymer of propylene with another α -olefin having 2 to 18 carbon atoms. Examples of another α -olefin having 2 to 18 carbon atoms include ethylene, butene-1, pentene-1, hexene-1 and octene-1. The amount of another α -olefin which is copolymerized with propylene can be up to 50 mole% per mole of propylene.

20 The term vinyl cycloalkane polymer denotes a homopolymer of a vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 carbon atoms or a random copolymer of the vinyl cycloalkane with a small amount (i.e., up to 20 mole% per

mole of the vinyl cycloalkane) of another vinyl cycloalkane or an α -olefin or a block copolymer of the vinyl cycloalkane with an α -olefin. Examples of the α -olefin which is copolymerized with the vinyl cycloalkane are α -olefins having 2 to 8 carbons such as ethylene, propylene and butene-1. The vinyl cycloalkane block copolymer denotes a copolymer of the vinyl cycloalkane with various α -olefins obtained by multi-step polymerization, for example (1) a copolymer obtained by polymerizing the vinyl cycloalkane in a first step and homopolymerizing propylene in a second step, (2) a copolymer obtained by polymerizing the vinyl cycloalkane in a first step and random copolymerizing propylene with another α -olefin in a second step, and (3) a copolymer obtained by homopolymerizing propylene in a first step, polymerizing the vinyl cycloalkane in a second step, and homopolymerizing propylene or copolymerizing propylene with another α -olefin in a third step. Of these vinyl cycloalkane polymers, the block copolymers are preferred, and the block copolymers of the vinyl cycloalkane with propylene as shown in (1) to (3) are more preferred.

Examples of the vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 carbon atoms used to prepare the vinyl cycloalkane polymer include vinyl cyclobutane, vinyl

cyclopentane, vinyl-3-methyl cyclopentane, vinyl
cyclohexane, vinyl-2-methyl cyclohexane, vinyl-3-methyl
cyclohexane and vinyl norbornane, with vinyl cyclopentane
and vinyl cyclohexane being preferred. Examples of
5 another vinyl cycloalkane to be copolymerized with the
vinyl cycloalkane are those listed above for the vinyl
cycloalkane.

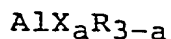
In order to obtain the improving effect
without changing the inherent properties of the
10 crystalline polypropylene, the content of the vinyl
cycloalkane unit in the crystalline propylene polymer
composition of this invention should be 0.05 to 10,000
weight ppm, preferably 0.5 to 5,000 weight ppm, more
preferably 0.5 to 1,000 weight ppm.

15 The crystalline polypropylene and the vinyl
cycloalkane polymer used in this invention can be
conveniently produced by using a catalyst system composed
of a titanium compound and an organoaluminum compound.
That is, homopolymerization of propylene or the
20 copolymerization thereof with another α -olefin may be
carried out by known polymerization methods, for example,
by slurry polymerization in a hydrocarbon solvent such as
hexane or heptane, bulk polymerization in liquefied
propylene, vapor-phase polymerization in a propylene gas,
25 etc. The copolymerization of propylene with another α -

0151883

olerin may be random copolymerization or block copolymerization. The polymerization temperature is 20°C to 100°C, and the polymerization pressure is atmospheric pressure to 60 kg/cm²-G. Further, the homopolymerization
5 of the vinyl cycloalkane or its copolymerization with another vinyl cycloalkane or with an α -olefin may be carried out preferably in the presence of a polymerization solvent. Suitable polymerization solvents include the above vinyl cycloalkane monomers themselves and
10 hydrocarbons such as butane, hexane, heptane, benzene and toluene. The polymerization temperature is 20°C to 100°C, and the polymerization pressure is atmospheric pressure to 60 kg/cm²-G. Examples of the titanium compound are the titanium trichloride catalysts sold by Toyo
15 Stauffer Co., Ltd., Toho Titanium Co., Ltd., and Marubeni-Solvay Co., Ltd. The catalysts comprising magnesium compounds and titanium compounds supported thereon which are described in, for example, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication Nos. 59916/1982 and
20 133408/1980 may also be conveniently used.

The organoaluminum compound is preferably an alkyl aluminum compound represented by the following formula:



wherein X represents a halogen atom, an alkoxy group or a hydrogen atom, R represents an alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and a is a number represented by $0 \leq a < 3$.

Specific examples of the organoaluminum compound
5 include $\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{Cl}$,
 $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{Br}$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9)$,
 $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)(\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9)_2$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{Cl}_2$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{Cl}$,
 $\text{Al}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13})_3$, $\text{Al}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13})_2\text{Cl}$ and mixtures thereof.

To improve the stereoregularity of the
10 crystalline polypropylene or the vinyl cycloalkane
polymer, it is possible to add an electron donor such as a
carboxylic acid ester, phosphoric acid ester or silicic
acid ester during the polymerization.

The crystalline polypropylene and the vinyl
15 cycloalkane polymer can be blended by methods
usually employed in blending α -olefin polymers.
Specifically, the powders of the two polymers, the pellets
of two polymers, or a powder of one polymer and pellets of
the other polymer may be mixed in a Henschel mixer or the
20 like, and melted and kneaded by a Brabender, a roll, a
Banbury mixer, a granulator, etc.

As required, any types of additives normally
incorporated in polypropylenes, such as heat and light
stabilizers, antistatic agents, antioxidants, carbon
25 black, pigments and flame retardants, may be added to the

crystalline propylene polymer composition of this invention. Furthermore, the composition of this invention may be mixed with another polymer such as low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polybutene or
5 EP (ethylene/propylene) rubber and filler such as mica and talc

The crystalline propylene polymer composition of this invention may be molded into a variety of products such as sheets, films, containers and fibers by known
10 techniques such as injection molding, pressure forming, vacuum forming, extrusion molding, blow molding and stretching.

The following examples illustrate the present invention.

15 The various properties including the melt index, light scattering index (LSI), haze, gloss, $[\eta]$, and crystallization temperature shown in these examples were measured by the following methods.

(1) Melt index:

20 Measured in accordance with JIS K-6758.

(2) $[\eta]$:

Measured at 135°C in tetralin using an Ubbelohde's viscometer.

(3) Crystallization temperature:

Measured at a temperature falling speed of 4°C/min. by means of a differential scanning calorimeter (DSC).

5 (4) Light scattering index (LSI):

Measured by an LSI tester made by Toyo Seiki K.K. (receiving scattering transmitting light of 1.2° to 3.6°).

(5) Haze:

10 Measured in accordance with ASTM D1003.

(6) Gloss:

Measured in accordance with ASTM D532-53T.

(7) Total light transmittance:

Measured by ASTM-D1746-62T.

15 (8) Internal haze:

The sample sheet was immersed in dimethyl phthalate, and its internal haze was measured in accordance with ASTM D1003.

(9) Internal total light transmittance:

20 The sample sheet was immersed in dimethyl phthalate, and its internal total light transmittance was measured in accordance with ASTM D1745-62T.

(10) Flexural modulus:

25 Measured in accordance with ASTM D790-66 on a sample having a thickness of 5.0 mm obtained by

compression molding in accordance with JIS K-6758.

Samples sheets for the measurement of the optical properties (4) to (9) were prepared in accordance with the pressing temperature, pressure and time conditions indicated in JIS K-6758 by using the pressing device shown in the drawing, i.e. a resin sample was put into a space surrounded by a 1 mm-thick stainless plate 1 and a 1 mm-thick aluminum plate 2 and then pressed to prepare the sample sheet. The numerals 3 designate 1 mm-thick stainless steel plates at the top and base.

Example 1

(1) Synthesis of a copolymer of vinyl cyclohexane and propylene:

To 100 ml of dehydrated and purified n-heptane were successively added 1.95 g of triethyl aluminum, 675 mg of ethyl p-anisate and 6.0 g of a titanium compound catalyst synthesized in accordance with Example 1 of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 59916/1982. The mixed solution was then heated to 50°C, and then 50 ml of vinyl cyclohexane was added. The vinyl cyclohexane was polymerized for 15 minutes. The resulting polymer slurry was washed four times with 200 ml of n-heptane to remove the unreacted vinyl cyclohexane, triethyl aluminum and ethyl p-anisate. The n-heptane was removed from the washed active slurry by distillation under

0151883

reduced pressure to obtain 7.8 g of a powder of polyvinyl cyclohexane containing the active catalyst. The amount of polyvinyl cyclohexane formed was 0.30 g per gram of the charged titanium compound catalyst.

5 By using 1.06 g of the vinyl cyclohexane polymerization catalyst, 0.75 g of triethyl aluminum, 0.237 g of methyl p-toluate and 1500 ml of n-heptane, propylene was polymerized in a 5-liter stainless steel autoclave at a temperature of 70°C under a pressure of 6
10 kg/cm²-G for 40 minutes using hydrogen in a concentration of 1.5% by volume. After the polymerization, 50 ml of n-butanol was added to stop the polymerization. The polymer slurry was taken out, and filtered to separate the polymer powder from the solvent. The polymer
15 powder was washed with 500 ml of 1N hydrochloric acid and then with methanol until the washings became neutral. The powder was dried and then weighed. Its amount was found to be .840 g. The amount of propylene polymerized was 1030 g per gram of the titanium compound catalyst.
20 The powdery copolymer had an $[\eta]$ of 1.93 dl/g. The vinyl cyclohexane unit content of the copolymer powder, calculated from the amount of vinyl cyclohexane polymerized per gram of the titanium compound catalyst, was .290 weight ppm.

25 (2) Preparation of a propylene polymer composition and a

molded article:

One hundred parts by weight of propylene homopolymer having a melt index of 1.0 was mixed with 0.5 part by weight of the copolymer prepared in (1) above, 0.2 part by weight of BHT (2,6-di-tertiary butyl hydroxytoluene) and 0.05 part by weight of calcium stearate as stabilizers and 0.05 part by weight of Irganox^R 1010 (antioxidant made by Ciba-Geigy AG; tetrakis[methylene-3(3',5'-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propionate]methane) by a Henschel mixer. The mixture was pelletized by a usual method using an extruder having a screw diameter of 40 mm. The pellets were melted and pressed by a hot press-forming machine kept at 230°C, and then cooled by a cold press having water at 30°C circulated therethrough, to form a sheet having a thickness of 1 mm. The press sheet was quite odor-free, and had a haze of 63.0%, an LSI of 0.2% and a gloss of 95%. The composition had a crystallization temperature of 126.8°C.

Examples 2 to 4

Example 1 was repeated except that the amount of the vinyl cyclohexane copolymer blended was changed to 1 part by weight (Example 2), 2 parts by weight (Example 3) or 10 parts by weight (Example 4). The crystallization temperatures, LSI and haze values of

the products are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example 1

5 For comparison, the haze, LSI, gloss and crystallization temperature of a press sheet of propylene homopolymer in the absence of the copolymer obtained in Example 1-(1) were measured. They were 52.5%, 40.5%, 74%, and 116.5°C, respectively.

Table 1

<u>Example (Ex.) or Comparative Example (CEX.)</u>	<u>Content of Polyvinyl Cyclohexane (wt. ppm)</u>	<u>Crystallization Temperature (°C)</u>	<u>Difference in Crystallization Temperature (°C)</u>	<u>Sum of Haze and Gloss (%)</u>
Ex. 1	1.5	126.8	10.3	63.2
Ex. 2	3	127.0	10.5	55.0
Ex. 3	6	126.6	10.1	51.0
Ex. 4	29	130.0	13.5	37.5
CEX. 1	-	116.5	-	93.0

The data given in Table 1 demonstrate that the polyvinyl cyclohexane-containing polypropylene has a high crystallization temperature, a marked small light scattering intensity of the transmitted light and excellent transparency.

Examples 5 and 6

To a mixture of 10 ml of n-heptane and 5 ml of vinyl cyclohexane were added 0.157 g of titanium trichloride (a product of Marubeni-Solvay Co., Ltd.) and 0.3 g of triethyl aluminum, and the vinyl cyclohexane was polymerized at 50°C for 45 minutes. The polymerization was stopped by adding methanol. The product was washed with HCl-methanol, to give 2.5 g of polyvinyl cyclohexane. The resulting polyvinyl cyclohexane (0.1 g in Example 5, and 0.01 g in Example 6) was dissolved in 20 ml of carbon tetrachloride. The solution was uniformly impregnated in 20 g of a powder of propylene homopolymer having a melt index of 27. The carbon tetrachloride was then removed by drying under reduced pressure. The residue was kneaded by a roll with the same proportions of the stabilizers and antioxidant (BHT, calcium stearate and Irganox^R 1010) as used in Example 1. The optical properties and crystallization temperature of the resulting propylene polymer composition were measured. The results are shown in Table 2 together

0151883

with the values for propylene homopolymer without the blending of polyvinyl cyclohexane (Comparative Example 2).

It is seen that the blends of a homopolymer of vinyl cyclohexane and propylene homopolymer also exhibited

5 improved transparency and gloss.

- 17 -

Table 2.

Example (Ex.) or Comparative Example (CEX.)	Content of Polyvinyl Cyclohexane (wt.ppm)	Crystallization Temperature (°C)	Haze (%)	LSI (%)	Gloss (%)
Ex. 5	5,000	130.9	63.5	1.6	85
Ex. 6	500	129.9	60.4	0	88
CEX. 2	-	120.6	66.0	27	71

Comparative Example 3

A copolymer of 4-methylpentene-1 and propylene was synthesized as in Example 1 except that 4-methylpentene-1 was used instead of vinyl cyclohexane.

5 One hundred parts by weight of the propylene homopolymer having a melt index of 27 shown in Comparative Example 2 (crystallization temperature: 120.6°C, haze: 66%, LSI: 27%, gloss: 71%) was mixed with 0.5 part by weight of the above copolymer to give a
10 propylene polymer composition containing 122 ppm of 4-methylpentene-1 unit. A pressed sheet formed from this composition had a haze of 71.4%, an LSI of 20.0%, a gloss of 75% and a crystallization temperature of 122.0°C. The difference of this crystallization temperature from
15 that of the propylene homopolymer was 1.4°C. It was found that poly-4-methylpentene-1 hardly showed a nucleating action and did not show a substantial improvement of the transparency of the propylene polymer.

Example 7

20 To 20 ml of dehydrated and purified n-heptane were successively added 0.6 millimole of diethyl aluminum chloride and 1.10 g of the titanium trichloride catalyst (a product of Marubeni-Solvay Co., Ltd.). The mixed solution was heated to 60°C. Then, 10 ml of vinyl
25 cyclohexane was added and polymerized for 15 minutes.

0151883

There are obtained a catalyst containing 1.26 g of polymerized vinyl cyclohexane per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst. Propylene was homopolymerized in the same way as in Example 1 using the resulting catalyst and diethyl aluminum chloride to give polypropylene containing 0.14% by weight of vinyl cyclohexane unit and having an $[\eta]$ of 2.2 dl/g.

The resulting copolymer (0.5 part by weight) was added to 100 parts by weight of propylene homopolymer having a melt index of 0.5 (crystallization temperature: 118.3°C, a 1 mm-thick pressed sheet prepared from the propylene homopolymer had a haze of 54.3%, an LSI of 41.0% and a gloss of 69%), and the same stabilizers and antioxidant as in Example 1 were added. They were kneaded by a Brabender to give a crystalline propylene polymer composition containing 7 weight ppm of the vinyl cyclohexane polymer. The composition had a crystallization temperature of 130.2°C which was higher by 11.9°C than that of the propylene homopolymer. A 1 mm-thick press sheet prepared from the composition showed a haze of 50.1%, an LSI of 2.0% and a gloss of 80%, respectively.

Example 8

A propylene copolymer having an $[\eta]$ of 6.0 dl/g and containing 2.22% by weight of vinyl cyclohexane unit

was produced in the same way as in Example 7 by polymerizing 4.88 g of vinyl cyclohexane per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst in a first step and homopolymerizing propylene in a second step. The resulting copolymer (2% by weight) was blended with 98% by weight of the same propylene homopolymer (MI 0.5) as used in Example 7 in the same way as in Example 7 to give a propylene polymer composition. The optical properties of the composition were measured and the results are shown in Table 3.

Comparative Examples 4 to 10

For comparison, in each run, a composition composed of the propylene homopolymer and a propylene copolymer containing 0.3 to 2.0 g of each of the vinyl compounds shown in Table 3 polymerized per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst was prepared in the same way as in Example 7 except that the aforesaid vinyl compound was used instead of vinyl cyclohexane. The optical properties of the composition were measured, and the results are shown in Table 3.

Comparative Examples 11 to 14

In each run, the same procedure as in Example 7 was repeated except that allylbenzene or styrene was used instead of vinyl cyclohexane, and when allylbenzene or styrene was polymerized, triethyl aluminum was used

instead of diethyl aluminum chloride. The optical properties of the resulting composition were measured, and the results are shown in Table 3.

The results in Comparative Example 3 and
5 Comparative Examples 4 to 14 show that even though a high boiling polymer (poly-4-methylpentene-1: 238°C, poly-3-methylbutene-1: 303°C, polyvinyl cyclohexene: 418°C, poly-3-methylpentene-1: 273°C, polyallylbenzene: 208°C, polystyrene: 242°C) is merely contained in polypropylene,
10 the optical properties of the polypropylene cannot be improved.

Table 3

Example (Ex.) or Comparative Example (CEX.)	Vinyl compound/propylene copolymer			Content of vinyl compound in the composition (wt. ppm)	Optical Properties			
	Vinyl compound	$[\eta]$ (dl/g)	Blending Amount (%)		Haze (%)	LSI (%)	Total Light trans- mittance (%)	Gloss (%)
Base polypropylene	-	-	-	-	54	41	86	69
Ex. 7	Vinyl cyclohexane	2.2	0.5	7	50	2	86	80
Ex. 8	"	6.0	2	444	30	1	86	98
CEX. 4	3-Methylbutene-1	1.86	0.5	2	82	7	90	72
CEX. 5	"	"	2	8	82	4	91	77
CEX. 6	"	"	50	200	80	4	87	75
CEX. 7	Vinyl cyclohexene	1.9	0.5	3	74	18	89	68
CEX. 8	"	"	50	300	85	10	-	-
CEX. 9	3-Methylpentene-1	2.0	0.5	10	75	7	88	74
CEX. 10	"	"	50	1000	82	3	85	66
CEX. 11	Allylbenzene	2.0	0.5	75	65	29	88	60
CEX. 12	"	"	50	7500	95	0	64	72
CEX. 13	Styrene	2.1	0.5	38	80	9	90	68
CEX. 14	"	"	50	3800	94	0	-	-

Example 9

In the same way as in Example 1-(1), a propylene copolymer containing 0.72% by weight of a vinyl cyclohexane homopolymer polymerized in an amount of 3.0 g per gram of the titanium compound was obtained. The copolymer (10% by weight) and 90% by weight of a propylene/ethylene random copolymer having a melt index of 7.2 and an ethylene content of 3.2% by weight were kneaded by a Brabender, and the optical properties of the resulting composition were measured. The results are shown in Table 5.

Comparative Example 15

A composition having the same ethylene content as the composition of Example 9 was prepared by blending 10% by weight of a propylene homopolymer having a melt index of 2.0 with the same propylene/ethylene random copolymer used in Example 9. The optical properties of a pressed sheet formed from the composition were measured, and the results are shown in Table 5.

The resulting composition had a higher haze and LSI than the composition of Example 9 containing polyvinyl cyclohexane, and exhibited poor transparency.

Examples 10 to 13 and Comparative Exmples 16 to 26

Using the titanium trichloride catalyst (a product of Marubeni-Solvay Co., Ltd.) and diethyl aluminum

chloride, three copolymers (A)-1, (A)-2 and (A)-3 shown below were prepared.

Copolymer (A)-1

Obtained by homopolymerizing vinyl cyclohexane in an amount of 1 g per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst in a first step, and homopolymerizing propylene in an amount of 752 g per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst in a second step.

Copolymer (A)-2

Obtained by homopolymerizing 3-methylbutene-1 in an amount of 0.31 g per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst in a first step and homopolymerizing propylene in an amount of 199 g per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst in a second step.

Copolymer (A)-3

Obtained by homopolymerizing 3-methylpentene-1 in an amount of 1.2 g per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst, in a first step, and homopolymerizing propylene in an amount of 800 g per gram of the titanium trichloride catalyst in a second step.

Each of these copolymers was blended with a propylene homopolymer having a melt index of 2.0, a propylene/ethylene random copolymer (MI 8.4, ethylene content 5.4% by weight) or a propylene/n-butene-1 random copolymer (melt index: 3.0, butene content: 19% by weight)

0151883

in the proportions shown in Table 4. The properties of the resulting compositions were measured, and the results are shown in Table 5.

Table 4

Unit: % by weight

	<u>Copolymer (A)</u>		<u>Propylene Homopolymer</u>	<u>Propylene/ Ethylene Copolymer</u>	<u>Propylene/ Butene-1 Copolymer</u>
Example 10	(A)-1	20	-	80	-
Comparative Example 16	-		20	80	-
Comparative Example 17	(A)-2	20	-	80	-
Comparative Example 18	(A)-3	20	-	80	-
Example 11	(A)-1	20	50	-	30
Example 12	(A)-1	70	-	-	30
Comparative Example 19	-		70	-	30
Comparative Example 20	(A)-2	20	50	-	30
Comparative Example 21	(A)-2	70	-	-	30
Comparative Example 22	(A)-3	20	50	-	30
Comparative Example 23	(A)-3	70	-	-	30
Example 13	(A)-1	20	-	-	80
Comparative Example 24	-		20	-	80
Comparative Example 25	(A)-2		-	-	80
Comparative Example 26	(A)-3	20	-	-	80

Table 5
Optical Properties

Example (Ex.) or Comparative Example (CEX.)	Vinyl Compound of copolymer (A)	Composition			Internal		Total		Internal		Flexural Modulus (kg/cm ²)
		Vinyl Compound (wt. ppm)	[η] (dl/g)	α -Olefine Copolymerized (wt%)	Haze (%)	Internal Haze (%)	LSI (%)	Trans- mittance (%)	Light Total mittance (%)	Trans- mittance (%)	
Ex. 7	Vinyl cyclohexane	720		Ethylene	2.9	28		3	85		
CEX. 15	-	-		"	2.7	42		27	86		
Ex. 10	vinyl cyclohexane	270	1.8	"	4.3	36		7	78		11900
CEX. 16	-	-	1.9	"	4.3	65		23	84		9800
CEX. 17	3-Methyl- butene-1	310	1.7	"	4.3	66		4	83		10500
CEX. 18	3-Methyl- pentene-1	300	1.9	"	4.3	70		4	86		10400
Ex. 11	Vinyl cyclohexane	270	2.2	n-Butene-1	5.7	46		6	80		11200
Ex. 12	"	930	2.0	"	5.7	34		7	77		15300
CEX. 19	-	-	2.2	"	5.7	68		24	84		10900
CEX. 20	3-Methyl- butene-1	310	2.1	"	5.7	83		3	87		12100
CEX. 21	"	1100	1.8	"	5.7	83		3	82		11100
CEX. 22	3-Methyl- pentene-1	300	2.2	"	5.7	79		4	87		11800
CEX. 23	"	1000	2.3	"	5.7	80		3	84		12300
Ex. 13	Vinyl cyclohexane	270	2.1	"	15.2	34		5	79	83	10100
CEX. 24	-	-	2.2	"	15.2	60		13	83	84	8100
CEX. 25	3-Methyl- butene-1	310	2.1	"	15.2	68		3	85	90	9200
CEX. 26	3-Methyl- pentene-1	300	2.0	"	15.2	71		3	86	90	8400

It is seen from the above results that the propylene polymer compositions containing polyvinyl cyclohexane had excellent rigidity and optical properties. On the other hand, the compositions containing poly-3-methylbutene-1 or poly-3-methylpentene-1 showed some improvement in rigidity, gloss and transmittance, but had a large haze, and therefore, was unsatisfactory for practical application.

Example 14

A polypropylene composition was prepared from 100 parts by weight of a propylene/ethylene block copolymer having a melt index of 45 and a flexural modulus of 12,000 kg/cm² (the propylene homopolymer portion 75% by weight) and 0.5 part by weight of the vinyl cyclohexane/propylene copolymer obtained in Example 7. The flexural modulus of the composition was found to be 13,400 kg/cm². The inclusion of only 7 wt. ppm of the vinyl cyclohexane polymer gave a propylene polymer composition having very high crystallinity.

Example 15

A propylene copolymer composition containing 500 weight ppm of vinyl cyclopentane was obtained in the same way as in Example 7 except that vinyl cyclopentane was used instead of vinyl cyclohexane. This composition had a haze of 39% and an LSI of 0.4%.

CLAIMS

1. A crystalline propylene polymer composition comprising a blend of a crystalline polypropylene with a polymer of a vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 carbon atoms, said composition containing 0.05 to 10,000 parts per million by weight of the vinyl cycloalkane unit.

2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said crystalline polypropylene is a homopolymer of propylene.

3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said crystalline polypropylene is a random copolymer of propylene with another α -olefin having 2 to 18 carbon atoms.

4. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said crystalline polypropylene is a block copolymer of propylene with another α -olefin having 2 to 18 carbon atoms.

5. A composition as claimed in Claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said polymer of vinyl cycloalkane is a homopolymer of a vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 carbon atoms.

6. A composition as claimed in Claims 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said polymer of vinyl cycloalkane is a block copolymer of a vinyl cycloalkane having at least 6 carbon atoms with an α -olefin.

7. A composition as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said α -olefin is propylene.

8. A composition as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said vinyl cycloalkane is vinyl cyclobutane vinyl cyclopentane, vinyl-3-methyl cyclopentane, vinyl cyclohexane, vinyl-2-methyl cyclohexane, vinyl-3-methyl cyclohexane, or vinyl norbornane.

9. A composition as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said vinyl cycloalkane is vinyl cyclopentane or vinyl cyclohexane.

10. A composition as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 9, wherein said composition contains 0.5 weight ppm to 5,000 weight ppm of the vinyl cycloalkane unit.

1/1

0151883

